

REMARKS

The rejection of claims 1 and 6 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to remove the terms deemed ambiguous by the Examiner, inclusive of the terms "identified them", "notes but the rejected" and "previous stage". Claim 1 has also been amended to clarify any misunderstanding in the interpretation of the features claimed in claim 1.

Likewise, claim 6 has been amended to remove the term "identification" and to substitute the term - - recognition- -. Based upon the amendments of claims 1 and 6, the rejection under 35 USC 112 should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1-3 and 5, and 6 as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication Number 2004/008452 (Nagayoshi et al) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the function of the temporary money holder which temporarily stores authenticated notes, counterfeit notes and unidentified notes other than rejected notes. This is in sharp contrast to Nagayoshi et al which teaches the use of a temporary stacker having an entirely different function from that of the temporary money holder of the subject application. In Nagayoshi et al, notes are retained other than rejected or counterfeit notes, whereas the temporary money holder in claim 1 retains counterfeit notes.

Accordingly, the function of the temporary money holder as set forth in claim 1 and the function of the temporary stacker of Nagayoshi et al are completely dissimilar. For this reason alone, the rejection under 35 USC 102(e) should be withdrawn. However, it

should be further pointed out to the Examiner that the object of the subject invention and the object of the automatic teller machine disclosed in Nagayoshi et al are totally different. In Nagayoshi et al the teller machine is an ATM machine in which counterfeit notes are treated simply as unidentified notes and are not retained. Instead, they are placed in a note box, independent of the temporary stacker 110 to be returned to the cash I/O unit. All of the notes other than rejected notes are collected in the temporary stacker 110 as is clearly explained in paragraph (0029) of Nagayoshi et al. The function of the temporary money holder in the subject invention is to facilitate the detection and retention of counterfeit notes as proof of the existence of a crime. This is significant in understanding the difference between the subject invention and the automatic teller machine (ATM) of Nagayoshi et al.


The rejection of claims 4, 7 and 8 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagayoshi et al as applied to claim 1, in combination with Jones et al (USP 6,363,164) is respectfully traversed.

As explained above, the objective and function of the automatic teller machine (ATM) disclosed in Nagayoshi et al is entirely different from the objective of the printed note deposit machine of the subject invention and the function of the temporary money holder as claimed in claim 1, is entirely different from the temporary money holder disclosed and taught in Nagayoshi et al. Since the function of the temporary money holder is entirely different from that taught in Nagayoshi et al, it would involve hindsight to redefine the functions of the Nagayoshi machine for combining the teaching of Jones with the teaching of Nagayoshi to conclude that the features taught in claims 4, 7 and 8 are obvious. Otherwise, the combination as suggested by the Examiner would not provide the same function and do not teach the features taught in claims 4, 7 and 8.

For all of the above reasons, claims 1-8 are believed patentable over
Nagayoshi et al taken alone or in combination with Jones et al.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-8 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

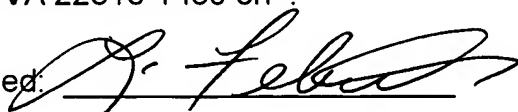


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